

Appln No.: 10/690,398
Amendment Dated: March 24, 2006
Reply to Office Action of January 10, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed January 10, 2006 for the above-captioned application. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

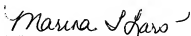
Claims 1-31 were pending in this application. Claims 7-10, 14-17 and 23-31 are indicated to be allowable if amended to independent form. Claim 1 has now been amended to require the presence of the fourth layer as set forth in claim 7 (now canceled). Thus, claim 1 and claims 2-6 and 23-31 dependent thereon should now be allowable. Applicants have made some formatting amendments to the dependent claims to more clearly define the invention given the fact that the optional choices set forth in original claim 1 are no longer recited.

Claim 11, which originally was a dependent claim that expressly indicated the selection of option (b) from original claim 1 has been amended to independent form. Claim 11 was rejected in the Office Action, but the Examiner also noted in his response to the arguments that the claims were not limited to the second claimed alternative. (Page 4) Based on this statement and the fact that the arguments in the Office action are directed to option (a), not option (b), Applicants believe that claim 11, as amended, and the claims dependent thereon (claims 12, 13, 18-22 and new claim 32¹) should also be allowable.

Claims 33 and 34 have been added to specify a polycarbonate component in the third layer. This claim is supported at ¶ 53. This amendment does not increase the number of claims (since more than three claims were canceled).

For these reasons, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Marina T. Larson, Ph.D
Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 32038

(970) 262-1800

¹ Claim 32 corresponds to original claim 2.